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It is to be hoped that the reorganization of the Department, approved by the Secretary of Agriculture and the House Committee on Agriculture, will be introduced as a special bill. Scientific men at Washington can not well advocate a measure that increases their salaries, and there is consequently every reason for those interested in science and not connected with the Government service to use all efforts to secure the introduction and passage of a measure that is essential for efficiency and economy.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

AT a meeting of the Prussian Academy of Sciences, held on January 24th, the announcement was made that the Helmholtz Medal had been conferred upon Sir George Gabriel Stokes, of Cambridge University. The medal has hitherto been conferred only on Professor Virchow and Lord Kelvin.

AT a meeting of the Council of the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America, held in New York, on January 29th, at which all members of the Council save one were present, the previous action by which Denver was designated as the next place of meeting for the Society was reconsidered, and by unanimous vote the Council determined to hold no meeting during the summer of 1901. In lieu of the customary summer meeting of the Society, a winter meeting will be held in the City of Washington during the next Christmas holidays, and Professors Newcomb and Brown were appointed a local committee to arrange the details of such meeting. The Committee upon Legislation affecting astronomical interests made through its chairman a report of progress, and was continued. Professor W. W. Campbell, director of the Lick Observatory, was elected a member of the Council in place of the late Professor James E. Keeler.

PROFESSOR R. W. WOOD, of the University of Wisconsin, has decided not to accept the invitation of the director of the U. S. Naval Observatory to go to Sumatra as a member of the eclipse expedition, but he has fitted up a polarizing spectroscope to test the method, recently described by him in SCIENCE, of photographing the Fraunhofer lines in the spectrum of the corona, by placing a Nicol prism in front of the slit of the instrument in such a position as to transmit the polarized light reflected by the coronal particles. Dr. Norman E. Gilbert, of the Johns Hopkins University, will operate the instrument, the observations being both visual and photographic. The visual work will be confined to the few moments at second and third contact, when the flash spectrum is seen.

THE Reale Accademia dei Lincei of Rome has elected to membership the Duke of the Abruzzi.

DR. M. CANTOR, honorary professor of mathematics in the University of Heidelberg, has been elected a corresponding member of the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences.

MR. EVELYN B. BALDWIN returned to New York on February 3rd, after having arranged, while abroad, for two vessels for his North Polar Expedition.

PROFESSOR FRANCIS E. LLOYD, of Teachers College, Columbia University, has gone abroad on a leave of absence, and will spend the next eight months at Bonn.

DR. WILLIAM R. BROOKS, director of the Smith Observatory and professor of astronomy in Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y., recently delivered two illustrated lectures in the opera house of that city on 'The Wonders of the Sun and the late Eclipse.' The stereopticon views included a large number of photographs of the eclipse in its partial phases, made at the Smith Observatory, and others taken at different points along the total belt.

A BRONZE bas-relief of the late Professor M. S. Newberry, the eminent geologist, has been presented to Columbia University by his children.

A BUST of Dr. Horace Green, who died in 1866, was presented to the New York Academy of Medicine on February 8th by Mrs. Green and George Walton Green. Dr. D. B. St. John Roosa made a commemorative address.

MILES ROCK, whose death in Guatemala was noted in SCIENCE of February 8th, was from 1883 to 1898 chief engineer and president of the Guatemala Commission to locate the

boundary between that country and Mexico. His services to Guatemala were so important that he was given an imposing public funeral at the expense of the government, the ceremonies taking place at the National School of Engineers and being attended by President Cabrera and his cabinet.

PROFESSOR MAX VON PETTENKOFER, of the University of Munich, the eminent authority on hygiene and bacteriology, has committed suicide at Munich. He was eighty-three years of age.

MR. R. D. LACOE, well known among geologists and paleontologists for his great aid in the advancement of the sciences of paleobotany and pale-entomology, died at his home in West Pittston, Pa., on the fifth of February.

PROFESSOR JOHN POTTER MARSHALL, until his retirement in 1899, professor of geology and mineralogy in Tufts College, died at his home at Tufts College on February 4th in his seventy-seventh year. He graduated from Yale College in 1844 and was one of the founders of Tufts College, where at first he had charge of all the scientific work, including mathematics, and where he held a professorship continuously for forty-five years.

PROFESSOR EDWARD ELBRIDGE SALISBURY, for sixty years professor of Arabic and Sanscrit at Yale University, died at New Haven on February 5th.

DR. WALTER MYERS, a member of the expedition of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine to Brazil, has died from yellow fever while engaged in investigating the disease. Dr. Myers was a graduate of the University of Cambridge and was only twenty-nine years of age.

THE death is announced in his seventieth year of Dr. Bernhardt Danckelmann, for the last 35 years director of the Prussian Royal Academy of Forestry at Eberswalde. He was one of the first to advocate the training of foresters in special colleges, and was the author of important works on forestry.

THE London *Times* announces the death, at Bois de Colombes at the age of 74, of M. Gramme, the eminent Belgian electrician. Brought up as a carpenter, he attended scientific lectures at Liège, where he showed a talent for machinery, and then went to Paris to a manufactory of light house electric lamps. He next worked under Ruhmkorff and Disderi. In 1867 and 1872 he patented electric batteries and the dynamo. For the latter he received 20,000 f. from the French Government and the Volta prize of 20,000 f. from the Academy of Sciences.

THE will of the late Charles F. Emerson gives $100,000 to the town of Castine, Maine, for a library.

WE learn from the *Electrical World* that the private electro-chemical laboratory of Mr. C. P. Steinmetz has been destroyed by fire, which probably had its origin in a coal stove. A considerable part of the apparatus was saved, but a number of interesting investigations being carried out in the laboratory are indefinitely delayed.

THE National Academy of Sciences has made a grant of $500 to the University of California from the Draper fund for the promotion of scientific research, the money to be used in the construction of a first-class one-prism spectrograph for the Lick Observatory.

LORD RANFURLY, Governor of New Zealand, has secured a fine collection of birds for the British Museum, including the *Merganser Australis*, which is almost extinct, and specimens of two species new to science.

THE collection of birds and mammals formed by the late Geo. A. Boardman, of Calais, Me., will be removed to Fredericton, N. B., and will occupy a conspicuous place in one of the Government buildings.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

MESSRS. WILLIAM KEYSER, William Wyman and Francis W. Jenks have offered to give the Johns Hopkins University a new site, on condition that $1,000,000 be collected for the University. The proposed site is some hundred and seventy acres in extent, and is valued at $750,000. It is in the northern part of the city of Baltimore and is well adapted for the purposes of the University.

IT will be remembered that at the recent election an amendment to the constitution of the State of California was adopted, permitting the